

Department of Agriculture, were it only to see the general opinion of that province as regards rape and lucerne. Many farmers there seem to have tried the two crops, and, except where the drought of last summer affected them, their success seems to have been general, as, for instance:

Nichol, Wellington: Rape is becoming a very common fodder-crop here. Lambs, sheep and cattle do well on it.

Gainsborough, Lincoln: Rape is coming slowly to the front in this district as a rapid finisher of lambs, beeves and pigs. Lucerne, when farmers succeed in getting a catch, is giving splendid satisfaction.

Grantham, Lincoln: Lucerne is coming into use; mostly as hay; a few only use it as green fodder.

South: Lucerne is better known now than heretofore; it will, before long, be more extensively planted than it has been.

Beverly, Wentworth: I consider rape a fine pasture for lambs in the fall.

Norwich N., Oxford: Having grown lucerne with most astonishing success during the last ten or twelve years, I am at a loss to know why it is not more universally grown and appreciated. I have never experienced anything approaching a failure in getting a most vigorous catch, tenacity of life and productiveness. This plant being even richer in carbohydrates than red clover, enormously productive and very much relished by stock of all kinds (if cut before it becomes woody) has sufficient merit to revolutionize, at least to some extent, the present system of stock and fodder growing, including dairying.

Halton: Rape is grown pretty extensively.

And so on. But, if lucerne is properly prepared for, and sown on suitable land, drought ought to have but little effect upon it. The best soil for lucerne is a rich sandy loam, with a good deep subsoil, not affected by water. The great value of the plant, indeed, is that, owing to the immense penetrative power of its tap-root, it can dive hither and thither into the subsoil—16 to 20 feet—and thus reach depths into which drought can never make its way.

A pretty sharp reproof is administered to the agricultural population in the same Bulletin:

Williamsburg, Dundas: There are too many shows, agricultural and others, for the good of farmers—they and their wives gadding from Dan

to Beersheba during the fine weather to the neglect of fall work and then plowing in the mud in the late fall.

Poor things! Are the farmers and their wives to have no fun at all?

As to the *dairy*, we were pleased to see, in the same Bulletin, that "The Durham-grades are by far the most profitable in our locality" (Kent county). At Lobo, Middlesex, "they have tried Jerseys, but a great many have given them up and bought Durham-grades (i. e." Dairy-Short-horns).

A marvellous falling off in the cultivation of tobacco in Ontario:

1898—ten million pounds.

1899—two million and a quarter pounds.

In the county of Essex, 5,086 acres were planted with tobacco in 1898, but in 1899, only 1,411 acres!

There were 5,000 fewer *horses* in Ontario than in 1895; 3,000 fewer *working-ones* in 1899 than in 1895; 250,000 fewer *sheep* in 1899 than in 1899; and 672,000 *more hogs* in 1899 than in 1895.

*Labour* seems to be getting scarce in Ontario, many young men having gone to the North West. Domestic servants—on the farm—are, as usual, hard to find.

*Straw*.—As hay, clover-hay particularly, is likely to be dear this back-end of winter, it would be well for farmers to consider how to make the best use of their straw.

The best thing to do with straw, in our opinion, is to cut it into chaff—not too short for *cattle*—and scatter over it a soup made of crushed flax-seed, molasses, and a little salt. A half-pound each of flax-seed and molasses, in enough water—hot or cold—to thoroughly dampen the straw-chaff, will be found sufficient for each full-grown head of *cattle*, and proportionately less for *horses*, *sheep*, and young *cattle*. This mixture will be found to be very appetising, and by no means costly.

#### GRASS-SEEDS.

To the Editor:

Dear Sir,—I should like your advice, through the columns of the JOURNAL, upon the following questions.